श्री नगेन्द्र नाथ ओझा (बिहार): मैडम, मैं भी आपसे एक एशोरेंस चाहता हूं?

उपसभापति: मेरे से क्यों चाहते है?

श्री नगेन्द्र नाथ ओझा: मै इसलिए चाहता हूं कि आपने ही इस हाउस में कपलेट पढ़ करके, सुना करके सरकार से निवेदन किया था खेत मजदूरों के कानून के बारे में कि इसको लाइये। मैडम, मैं यह एशोरेंस चाहता हूं कि हर 15 अगस्त को दोहराया जाता है कि यह मांग पूरी की जाएगी और यह बिल लाया जाएगा, लेकिन इस बार ऐसा कहने के लिए सरकार को इजाजत न मिले।

यह बिल नहीं ला रहे हैं इस सैशन में तो 15 अगस्त को यह बिल लाया जाएगा, कानून बनाया जाएगा, फिर इसको दोहराइये मत, क्योंकि पिछले लगातार तीन 15 अगस्त से यही सेम बात की जा रही है, कम से कम इतनी शर्म तो सरकार को जरूर हो कि एक ही बिल को लाने के लिए, कानून बनाने के लिए हर 15 अगस्त को वह मौका न ले, इसका एशोरेंस आपके जरिए हमको जरूर मिलना चाहिए। यह बहुत शर्मनाक बात है कि जिस गरीब और सामाजिक न्याय के लिए बात की जा रही है वह एक्ट यहां पास नहीं किया जा रहा है, वह बिल यहां लाया नहीं जा रहा है?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot give an assurance. You have stated this. The Government is here. They have also heard it. They will convey your sentiments to the department concerned.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, with your permission, may I give one clarification? The List of Business includes the Constitution (Eighty-first) Amendment Bill. It relates to reservation for women in State Legislatures and Lok Sabha. *(Interruptions)* I thought I should give this clarification. I did not know at that time. I have since come to know. I thought I should take the House into confidence and clarify it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I thought, perhaps, this is the Women's Bill. *(Interruptions)* The Eighty-first Amendment Bill is not in regard to education, but in regard to women. It is listed as one of the items in the business for next week. Therefore, please be here to [illegible] it when it comes from the Lok Sabha. Government is bringing forward the Bill. But you have to put your stamp on it. That is important.

Now, Shri Bommai to make a statement.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SNATAN BISI) in the Chair]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh-Permission to self-help group to determine rate of lending to members

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement.

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh had been providing funds to the voluntary organisations at an interest rate of 8 percent for on-lending to the poor women. The NGOs, in turn, on-lend these funds to the ultimate borrowers at a rate of interest not exceeding 12 percent.

The National Bank of Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) has been promoting credit through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The rate of interest on the loans to the SHGs is at 12 percent. The Self-Help Group is permitted to determine the rate of lending to the members of the group on the basis of the decision of the members of the Group. This allows the Self-Help Group to charge rates higher than 12 percent. The difference between the rate of interest charged to the members and the rate at which the Self-Help Group borrows from the NGO remains with the Group for their common benefit. NABARD had indicated to RMK that if RMK has to be refinanced by NABARD, the terms of lending by RMK should conform to the terms of lending of the NABARD to the Self-Help Groups.

In order to harmonise the operations for SHGs with NABARD, the Governing

(i) RMK may lend its funds to the organisations/NGOs at 8 percent;

(ii) The organisations/NGOs may further lend to the SHGs/directly to beneficiaries at 12 percent; and

(iii) SHGs may be left free to decide the rate of interest to be charged from the ultimate members/ borrowers. Such rate should not, however, exceed the lending rate of State Bank of India on its unsecured loans during the last financial year ending 31st March.

The Government have decided to accept these recommendations.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Clarifications on this statement would be taken up later.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, would it be taken up on Monday? If it is possible, I suggest that this may be taken up on Monday.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): We will decide.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I would like to know the time so that we can allocate duties.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): We can have it on Monday, if it is agreed.

PROF. RAM KAPSE (Maharashtra): Sir, it can be taken up at the end of the day. We can take up the clarifications at the end of the day. Generally, statements are made at 5 O' clock and clarifications are also taken up after the statement is made. That is the decision of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Is it the desire of the House that it should be taken up on Monday?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I would like to make a request. Today being a Friday, we have some problem. Not many people are here. It is an important statement. Therefore, we can take it up on Monday, if it is possible.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTAN BISI): Is it convenient for the Minister?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, I would like this to be taken up on Tuesday, because, on Monday, I would be held up in the Lok Sabha. We can have it on Tuesday.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Oke then; it will be on Tuesday.

We will now take up the Zero Hour submision. Shri Govindram Miri.

RE.: RETURN OF KOHINOOR DIAMOND TO INDIA

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, a report in the 'Sunday Telegraph' published in London early this week says that a box belonging to one of the three princes of late Maharaja Dalip Singh, son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, is in the locker of the Zurich Bank. 'This box contains the Kohinoor, the remnant of he original diamond of which Maharaja Ranjit Singh's son was dispossessed after the accession of Punjab to the British Dominion in 1848 AD; the original one is in the custody of the Bank of England.'

Sir, the Maharaja had no intention to give it to the British. This could be ascertained from the papers reportedly lying in the locker.

Sir, the sentiment attached to the Kohinoor in India is formidable. This is realised by Britain. The Labour Government in the United Kingdom must exhibit a sense of morality and fairness once again, as it did fifty years ago in 1947 by withdrawing from the sub-continent, and hand over the historical jewel to India in the Golden Jubilee Year of India's Independence.

Another suggestion made by the President of the Indian National Congress Overseas, Shri Balwant Kapoor, is that it should be graciously donated by the Queen at the Holy Harminder Sahib in